

BULGARIA HAS A FINE ARMY

WHILE TURKEY IS IN A MEASURE DISORGANIZED.

Both Contain Good Fighting Material—Bulgarians Confident and Able to Strike Quickly—Turkish Mobilization a Difficult Work Taking Much Time.

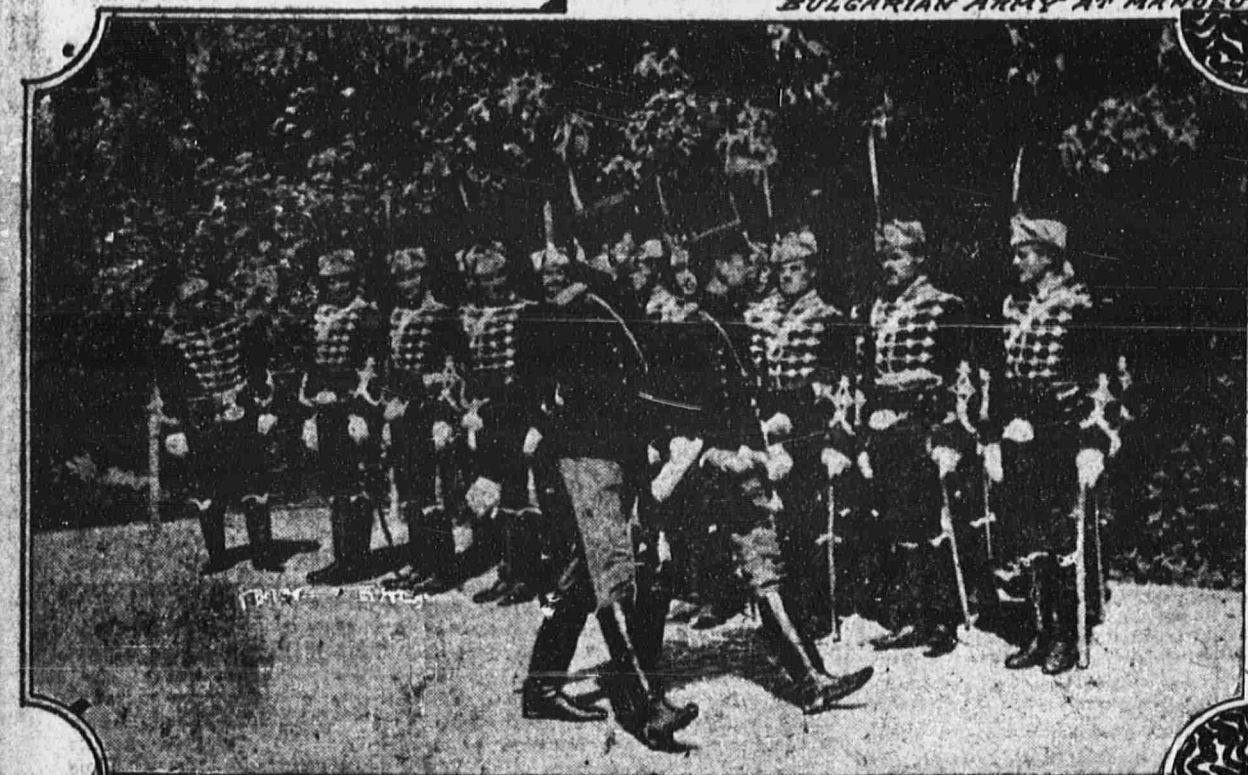
In making an estimate of the war strength of the Balkan States it is easily seen that the present is a much more favorable time for Bulgaria than for Turkey. Bulgaria has for years been preparing for the very crisis which she now faces, and her army perhaps never



BULGARIAN ARMY AT MANOEUVRES.



BULGARIAN CAVALRY.



KING FERDINAND'S BODY GUARD.



TURKISH BUGLER.



BULGARIAN OFFICERS COUNTING HORSES AVAILABLE FOR USE IN CASE OF WAR.

was in better condition. Turkey, on the other hand, is in the midst of changes in military administration and system and her army appears to have advantage even in the days of corruption and inefficiency preceding the Young Turk regime.

Bulgaria reviews the past twenty years history of her army with pride. The officers display with swelling chests troops that have been whipped into what many European military experts declare to be one of the model armies of the world.

They have no hesitancy in permitting a stranger to witness drills, examine accoutrements and arms and inspect barracks. Pictures of troops in action, of favorite companies and prominent officers are the most conspicuously displayed photographs in the shops. The principal club of Sofia is the Military Club, and in the afternoons and evenings it is crowded with smart looking, well dressed officers, who discuss with pride the superiority of their army to that of their neighbors, and assert their readiness for war with Turkey, which they consider Bulgaria's hereditary enemy. It was a group of such enthusiasts who declared that in the advent of the declaration of war the march to Constantinople would be merely a promenade.

"The Turks seemed to wish to forget the recent history of their army," said an American who as the guest of a Turkish officer had been allowed to witness the drilling of troops on the plains near Adrianople. "One of the first acts of the present Government was to dismiss to their homes all soldiers who had served three years under the colors, a course in marked contrast to the arbitrary rule of the former palace favorites who retained men in the service as long as they could force them to remain. As a result the active army is now composed of recruits."

Most of the troops that I saw were undergoing elementary instruction and they fairly swarmed over the parade grounds in small squads, mounted and unmounted, learning to ride and to march. The men seemed slow to learn, dull and ignorant. The officers were alert and energetic, but it appeared to me that their own knowledge of their profession was not extensive.

At least 90 per cent. of the conscripts were illiterate, and while the officers to some extent were educated men, they were lacking in practical military training. Education is one of the greatest wants of the Turkish army, first of all among the rank and file.

There is plenty of good material, but the training is not up to date, and without

that scientific training which has become necessary on a modern battlefield, the courage and patience with which every one who knows the Turkish soldier will admit he is endowed, are useless.

"I was struck with the way things were done under the old order by seeing in a gun park a hundred or more Krupp quick-firing guns for both horse and field artillery. The pieces had been issued to the artillery branch of the service almost three years before, yet they had never been used except for a few trial shots when they first arrived.

"The Sultan had always denied permission to the officers to engage in either musketry or artillery field practice, and thus the stores of ammunition that were bought at the same time spoiled or were wasted in the arsenals. Now, these fine guns, and they are really such, are being put into condition, foreign instructors in their use have been engaged and a plot of ground for artillery field practice has been secured.

"One of the officers put the matter thus: 'We have no lack of guns, ammunition or men. What we want is the practical training that was denied us under the former Government. And we shall have it, for we know and feel the need of it. Everything is in disorder and confusion now, but wait for a few months and you shall see a wonderful improvement.'"

The Bulgarians have a passion for education. A remark that you may often hear quoted in army circles is that of Marshal Oyama, who said after the battle of Mukden that the victory was "a triumph of Japanese education."

The Bulgar is a slow minded fellow, but he is not illiterate, and under the influence of military training he is more easily made into a modern soldier than the Turk. The Military School at Sofia is admirably equipped and has been turning out efficient young officers. One of the sights on which the Bulgarian capital prides itself is a review of the cadet corps, a body of about 1,000 as smart looking young officers as you might see anywhere.

The curriculum of the school is much the same as that of West Point or of the best of the European military schools, and the institution is under the close supervision of the War Minister, as well as of Czar Ferdinand himself. In these respects the school at Sofia has been in marked contrast to the military college at Constantinople.

There the study of chemistry was prohibited by the Sultan because an anarchist who knew something of the science threw a bomb at him, and the chief of the army corps staff said that he had never visited the school, giving as his reason that if he had done so he would have been denounced by the Sultan as a spy and as a meddling with matters that did not concern him.

The principal branch of the service of both the Turkish and Bulgarian armies is the infantry. The endurance and patience of the Turkish infantryman have been remarked by all who have seen him in the field or have witnessed the long and tedious marches that he has made poorly equipped and poorly provisioned. But the Bulgarian infantryman is certainly not behind in these respects. Those

who have seen him in the military manoeuvres have remarked his sturdiness and his capacity for hard work. In fact the Bulgarian foot soldier works harder than almost any other European soldier, for his term of service is nominally but two years, and out of that must come a time allowance for planting and harvesting his crops.

His marching power is really considered above the average of similar European bodies. To repel King Milan's invasion in 1885 the army had to be transferred at short notice from the Turkish to the Serbian frontier. To do this infantry regiments made a forced march of nearly sixty miles in twenty-six hours before attacking the enemy.

The cavalry branch of the Turkish army has always been considered exceedingly picturesque, but the value of the greater part of it in modern warfare is problematic, made up as it is of Kurds and other half civilized tribes of Asiatics. These troops are all natural horsemen, and they come to their drills mounted on small, hardy, country bred horses. But in spite of their perfect horsemanship the Turkish officers have never been able to make them amenable to military discipline. They still remain more showy than useful.

The principal cavalry of the Bulgarian army is Czar Ferdinand's Guard Regiment. It has three squadrons during peace, two being mounted with Hungarian horses and the third with horses bred at the Government stud station. As Ferdinand takes a personal interest in this corps the barracks, the riding hall

and the stables, as well as the uniforms and equipments of the men, are all upon models of the best that he has found throughout Europe.

The armies of both countries are recruited by conscription. Practically the whole of the male population of Bulgaria is drawn upon. The Turks, on the contrary, place the burden of military duty entirely upon the Moslems.

Since there are in Europe only about 1,750,000 Moslems, a very large part of the army must be drawn from the Asiatic provinces. This weakness is one of the points that the new régime intends to correct. It proposes to extend conscription to the whole European population of the Ottoman Empire, thus giving nearly 7,000,000 people to draw from.

In Bulgaria 80,000 young men annually reach the age of 21, and of these about 24,000 are taken for the full peace color service. This period is nominally three years for the cavalry and artillery and two years for the infantry.

After they have finished their service under the colors the men are kept in the reserve for eighteen years. After leaving the reserves they are passed into the landwehr for six years and are considered available material for prolonged campaigns. A recent estimate by an Austrian authority, which seems to be verified by actual conditions, gives the number of men serving with the colors and on the reserve as 380,000. There are about 80,000 of the landwehr, but in time of peace they are without any military organization.

Liability to military service in Turkey extends over twenty-five years. The con-

script is taken at the age of 21 to serve for three years in the active army, then for six years in the reserve of the active army. At the expiration of that time he passes for nine years into the reserve army and finally for five years into the landsturm.

About 70,000 young men are taken annually for color service of the 100,000 or more young Moslems who come up for conscription. The German officers who have been drilling the Turkish troops make the number of available fighting men under this system of service as follows: Active army, 260,000; reserve of active army, 120,000; reserve army, 630,000; landsturm, 90,000; total, 1,100,000.

The mobilization of the Bulgarian army can be accomplished much more easily and speedily than the Turkish. The Bulgarian territory is divided into nine districts, with headquarters at strategic points.

Each division has two brigades of infantry and one artillery regiment of nine batteries. A cavalry regiment is included in the quota of the first six divisions. All the divisions have a full complement of administrative, clerical and medical staffs. The war strength of each division is placed at 20,000, making a total of 180,000, with 4,000 cavalry and 450 guns.

Then besides there are a separate cavalry division and certain corps troops, which would bring the mobilized strength of the Bulgarian army in the field to 210,000, with 7,000 cavalry and 600 guns. There would still remain 170,000 fully trained reservists and the 80,000 landwehr men available to fill casualties and to form supplementary forces. The Bul-

garian officers declare that this force can be concentrated upon any point of the frontier within ten days of the mobilization order.

In Turkey the conscripts are brought to Europe to serve their time with the colors and then return to their homes as reservists. When the time for mobilization comes it would be necessary to transfer them to Europe in order to get the full war strength.

Mobilization in any country of the extent of the Turkish Empire would under such conditions be difficult, but it is made particularly hard by the insufficient methods of communication between the Asiatic and European portions of the empire. A typical instance of what this would mean is cited by an authority as follows:

The reservists of the Sixty-ninth Infantry Regiment, quartered at Metrovitza, would have to come from Aidin, a distance of 500 miles as the crow flies. The route taken would be on foot to Smyrna, thence by sea to Rodosto, from there by march route to Mouratli and thence by rail to Metrovitza.

It is calculated that six weeks would be required before the Turkish army in Europe could be even partially mobilized by bringing the peace unit up to war strength. At the beginning of a campaign Turkey would consequently have to depend entirely on its peace army. This accounts for the fact that so large a force, about 150,000, is kept under arms in Europe.

"As for the rank and file of the Bulgarian army," said a military authority, "the men on the whole are a useful looking lot, seem to be as tough as leather, and on parade appear fit to do anything and go anywhere. There is no doubt that they think they are more than a match for the Turks."

"They have this on the word of foreign military attachés, who declared to them that if they had gone to war with the Sultan four years ago the fight would have been a pretty even one, whereas now there is a big balance of probability in favor of the Bulgarians."

"The Turkish army will be feeling the effects of reorganization for a long time to come. In spite of the German officials' efforts the army is a quarter of a century behind the times, while its fighting value is lower than it has ever previously been in the history of the Ottoman Empire."

"Thirty years of palace rule has worked incalculable havoc. Diamonded fortifications, empty arsenals, starved departments, untrained troops—this is what meets the eye on all sides."

TURKEY INVITES CAPITAL

A FRESH FIELD OPENED FOR AMERICAN ENERGY.

The Young Turks Look to the United States for Help in Developing the Resources of Their Country—Old System of Corruption Declared Dead.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 22.—Among the many political changes of an international character which have been brought about by the unexpected change of Government in Turkey there is one that may work peculiarly to American advantage. Previously closed to all intents to American enterprise, Turkey will now welcome business and capital from the United States and will grant valuable concessions, I am told, to all honest investors from across the Atlantic.

Particularly advantageous to American capitalists is the fact that they belong to a country known to have no political interests or territorial ambitions in the Ottoman Empire. A statement to this effect has been made to the American Embassy here by the Young Turk Committee of Union and Progress, the present dictators in the land.

The announcement—made unofficially but by a member of the committee after consultation with his colleagues—was entirely unqualified; it came in answer to a question as to whether an application for a railway concession would be welcomed by the Turkish Government at this moment. And it was also stated that not only in railways but in investments of all kinds American capital is earnestly desired, the Young Turks believing that the benefit will be not only direct but also in the secondary way of securing or assisting to assure the integrity of the empire.

Besides this, the continuance of the Young Turk's success depends almost entirely on the immediate installation

of civilizing institutions. Their work—I use their own argument—is primarily one of education; and of the immediate, quick education of several millions of people, who are likely to ask within a year: "What has this Constitution done for the country?"

Ignorant, from the determined suppression of schools by the old régime and poverty stricken to a degree, the great masses of the people naturally expect some material and immediate advantage to accrue from the experiment with a Western form of government. Many of them, the great illiterate majority, do not know what a constitution means and are still devout in their one law, devotion to the Padiasha, whose old Ministers, they believe, were guilty of deceiving him.

Their education, the first necessity of the proposed reforms, must begin with an actual, tangible betterment of their condition. Many of the Young Turks, the leaders of them, know that the country without capitalists, without engineers, with few men of experience and success in any line of organization, and with an almost bankrupt treasury, can do little in the way of improvements for many years to come, and it will be found necessary to throw open the doors to honest European and American investors generally.

Printing presses and all printing machinery as a beginning have not only been struck off the list of things denied entrance to the country, but according to a notice from the Sublime Porte distributed broadcast are now allowed to come in entirely free of duty. In consequence of this mushroom journals have sprung up so rapidly that recently they have had to apologize for the poor quality and the size of their paper, having drained southeastern Europe temporarily of its stock.

Of course there have been some serious abuses of the liberty of the press, but the Young Turks, except for remonstrating with the editors, have let them alone, declaring that the free publication of

papers, even if they create serious controversies, will inspire the people to learn how to read and to write.

The matter of education by the press will take care of itself. In that of enlightenment by Western engineers a beginning has been made by securing the services of Sir William Wilcox, the famous British engineer, who did so much in the way of reclaiming the valley of the Nile. His policy is also in American favor, as Sir William is known to appreciate the bustling qualities of American contractors. To Mr. Leishman, the American Ambassador, Sir William said recently: "Your engineers make the dirt fly and I hope we shall have some of them here."

The needs of this country are insatiable. As pointed out in a prospectus handed to the first American capitalist to arrive since the proclamation of the Constitution, there is room for the investment of millions upon millions of dollars. In Constantinople there is need for tramways, where only some few miserable horse cars now run; there are no electric lights, no telephones, little sewerage and drainage, not even a fire brigade, hand pumps still being used.

And these are also the requirements of every city in the Empire. Throughout the country railways, telegraphs, irrigation systems, harbors and river improvements and many other works are in grave demand.

The grain products of the rich plains of Syria are now unmarketed because there is no feasible way of bringing them over the mountains of the Mediterranean coast; carpets, spices and such valuable things alone warranting the expense of costly transportation by mule and camel. Mineral deposits—already discovered and marked out by explorers—are lying almost without exception in unbroken ground.

Tobacco, cotton, grain, wine, fruits and rich woods from the timber forests are produced only in a primitive fashion, in hardly a tenth of the quantity the country will yield. This New Turkey is in short

a virgin field for the engineer, the merchant and the investor.

Nor have Americans been slow to recognize the opportunities now open to them. Already not only has a railway franchise been applied for but an American company is competing with a Swiss concern for a telephone concession for Constantinople, and an electric light and general improvement company, with American capital, is, I may say, being formed. American archaeologists too are already arriving.

Under the old régime, as I have indicated, our people have been unable to do much in this country. Concessions for us were almost impossible, while trade, except to some extent that in tobacco, went and came in British bottoms via Great Britain.

Austria, Germany and Great Britain supplied most of the manufactured goods sold in the bazaars, but Britain was out of it, as was America, in obtaining concessions from the Sultan, while Germany and France secured the Government's orders for arms and ammunition. Constantinople has been a hotbed of corruption. Concessions cost money, blood and political influence. The money went to the Sultan's favorites. The unfortunate native Christians paid the cost in blood. The influence necessary was ships of war sent in defiance of the ships of those nations which would long ago have regulated Turkey.

But the Young Turks have come to power and things have changed. There will be, we are told, no more contracts given to high bidders and no more valuable railway concessions granted with kilometeric guarantees.

The roads already constructed are generally assured by the Turkish Government of annual revenues according to the number of kilometers they cover, and an indication of the outrageous amounts of some of these subventions is to be seen and experienced in travelling through the country by the signposts which the lines, take between their ter-

mini, sometimes almost doubling back in order to make the number of kilometers covered the utmost possible. In future, the Young Turks say, though many who know the Turks doubt, that bribery will be necessary, and kilometeric guarantees will be given only in the case of railways chiefly strategically built through country which will not otherwise warrant roads.

There are some scandals about the way in which the Germans obtained first place in this market. I hardly like to call them more than scandals. Charges against them of selling the lives of Armenians and Bulgarians are made by the most enlightened of the Young Turks.

For opposing England on several occasions when reforms would have saved the lives of countless of the Christian subjects of the Sultan the Germans received vast orders for arms and concessions such as no other nation has ever been able to obtain. The visit of the German Emperor to Constantinople, where he was the guest of Abdul Hamid after the slaughter of 8,000 Armenians in cold blood in the streets, supported the Sultan morally, gave him strength in the eyes of his own people and against Great Britain, enabling him to continue the slaughter, which went on in spells up to ten weeks ago. And by this support of the Turk the Emperor William secured for Germany the famous Bagdad railway concession with all that concession means.

It is a tremendous thing, this concession, securing the exclusive administrative control for Germany of a considerable stretch of land on either side of the road. It carries a kilometeric guarantee which, it is said, would pay a profit to the Germans if they did not run a train. It yields the right of controlling waterways of irrigating lands and utilizing valuable forests.

The German Embassy here, while perpetually proclaiming that Germany had no territorial ambitions in the country, had yet seen to it that German conces-

sions everywhere were of such a character that should any breakup occur the territorial rights of the holders would be incontestable. Germany has got in here as she and other countries have got into China; the line of the Bagdad railway, for example, marks out almost a sphere of influence.

But for the reason of Germany's influence with the old Government she is out of favor with the new. The Young Turks have no love for the Germans here, for they were the friends of the Sultan and the palace clique; they were first among the bribers of Izzet Pasha and the Melhamé brothers, and they sought to corrupt, so the charge goes, every Turk who had any influence anywhere. This secret fund, it is said, must have been enormous.

In enumerating the territories saved to the Empire by the change of Government the Young Turks always include Asia Minor or a part of it. Had the old Government continued, they say, Macedonia would have gone to Bulgaria, Albania to Austria and a part perhaps to Italy, Armenia to the Russians, and Asia Minor to the Germans. Naturally future application for franchises by the Germans will be scrutinized in the closest manner, and all favors will go in preference to investors of other nationalities.

Austria, too, is charged with having bribed Abdul Hamid's régime with relaxed pressure for reforms in Macedonia, and even the French seem to have been unable to withstand the temptation to secure contracts for arms in the manner of their Teuton enemy, until it came to be that England alone pressed seriously for good government in the country and a cessation of massacres. The old régime considered England its arch enemy because the British Government of late years was always first and most earnest in furthering the cause of the oppressed Christian peasants.

The new régime and the people have acclaimed England in an unmistakable way, recognizing that she indeed has al-

ways been the most sincere friend of the Turk and that she desired better government in Turkey only that Turkey might not be partitioned among other states. Because of this general feeling of friendship toward their old ally the Turks will always give their first favors, no doubt, to English applicants, but Americans will hold second place.

I learn that the Navy Department or Ministry of Marine, as it is called, has decided to adopt for the new navy course here the system in vogue at Annapolis, which the British Government has recently come to adopt. This, of course, does not mean very much, for unless the Turks secure foreign instructors they cannot put the system into force, having no capable seamen nor technical experts among themselves; but it shows a desire on the part of the new Government for the best that any part of the world is able to supply.

Robert College, the American institution on the Bosphorus, has had to turn away, I learn, nearly 700 applicants for the new term which began this week. Since the inauguration of the new Government not only native Christians, Bulgarians, Armenians, Greeks and others have applied for admission but also a number of Musselmans. Hitherto the college has had few of the last, because the Government did not favor Turks whose sons aspired to European enlightenment. The American girls' school, too, has had to refuse applications, many of them from Turkish girls.

The American missionaries, hampered in every way under the old régime, are now moving freely through the country. Colporteurs of the Bible Society, formerly hindered and annoyed at every turn, their Bibles often confiscated, may now show their testaments even to faithful Moslems.

Certainly a miracle has been worked in Turkey, but those who know the Turk are seriously pessimistic, saying that this state of things cannot survive. "The Young Turks are better than their country,"

FREDERICK MOORE.